

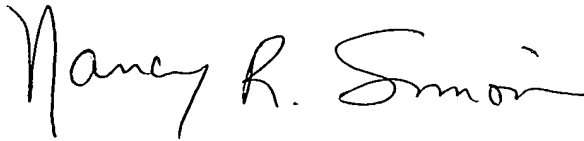
REMARKS

Claims 3-7 and 11-13 have been amended. Claims 15-34 have been added. No new matter has been added to the application as a result of these amendments. Claims 1-34 are currently pending in the application.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

Applicant respectfully submits this Preliminary Amendment for the Examiner's consideration prior to the examination of the above-referenced matter.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Claims 3-7 and 11-13 have been amended as follows:

3. (Amended Once) The method of claim [1] 6 wherein the [transforming step includes the] step of transforming [the groups] each group of unencoded signals into [groups] a group of encoded signals comprises the step of transforming a group of unencoded signals into a group of encoded signals having an equal number of logic 1's and logic 0's using one of the selected at least one encoding scheme.

4. (Amended Once) The method of claim [1] 7 wherein the step of transforming each group of unencoded signals into a group of encoded signals comprises the step of transforming a group of six unencoded signals into a group of eight encoded signals.

5. (Amended Once) The method of claim [1] 7 wherein the step of transforming each group of unencoded signals into a group of encoded signals comprises the step of transforming a group of four unencoded signals into a group of six encoded signals.

6. (Amended Once) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of selecting [an] at least one encoding scheme prior to performing the step of [dividing a plurality of unencoded signals into groups] transforming each group of unencoded signals into a group of encoded signals.

7. (Amended Once) The method of claim 6 wherein the at least one encoding scheme transforms a group of unencoded signals to encoded signals such that a difference between a total number of unencoded data values and a total number of encoded data values is a predetermined fraction of the total number of unencoded data values.

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11. (Amended Once) The method of claim [9] 12 wherein the [transforming step includes the] step of transforming [the groups] each group of unencoded signals into a group [groups] of encoded signals comprises the step of transforming a group of unencoded signals into a group of encoded signals having a constant number of logic 1's and logic 0's using one of the selected at least one encoding scheme.

12. (Amended Once) The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of selecting [an] at least one encoding scheme prior to performing the step of [dividing a plurality of unencoded signals into groups] transforming each group of unencoded signals into a group of encoded signals.

13. (Amended Once) The method of claim 12 wherein the at least one encoding scheme transforms a group of unencoded signals to encoded signals such that a difference between a total number of unencoded data values and a total number of encoded data values is a predetermined fraction of the total number of unencoded data values.

New claims 15-34 have been added.

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